

POPE BENEDICT NEAR DEATH

CHANCES OF COAL STRIKE TALKED OVER

Touched Upon at Rate Hearing of Commerce Commission

COAL RATE DOPE

Statistics on How Rate On Coal Touches All Other Lines

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Possibility of a national coal strike April 1 when the present agreements between the miners and operators expire was touched upon today at the interstate commerce commission's general rate inquiry.

H. W. Prickett, representing operators in southern Wyoming, Utah and nearby districts, declared the operators planned to put in substantial wage reductions April 1.

Shortly afterward W. S. Brown, attorney for the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad asked J. D. A. Morrow, vice president of the National Coal Association, what the possibilities were for a coal strike and Mr. Morrow in reply asserted that he "made it his business not to know anything about the labor side of the coal industry" in view of the fact that it was handled by other organizations of mine owners other than his own.

The strike matter was brought up during continuation of testimony relating to rates on coal. Mr. Prickett told the commission that 20 percent reduction in rates was payable and ought to be put in effect. Such a decrease in rates, he asserted, would result in increased consumption of coal and consequent benefit to the railroads.

To show the effect of changes in the price of coal upon the price of other commodities the coal producers put on the stand A. H. Campbell, traffic manager of the Pennsylvania paper company. Prices of newsprint paper prices in 1920 had reached a point 328 per cent above 1914 prices, while in 1921 the rates dropped to a level 6 per cent above 1914. Book prices in 1920 amounted to 20 per cent of 1914 prices, and later dropped to 154 percent. These fluctuations, he said, to a considerable degree registered the effect of the cost of coal delivered to the paper plants.

Further reductions in freight rates in case of coal would make additional decreases in the price of papers he asserted. Another of the industrial witnesses, M. Mabey, representing the American Alkali Company, testified that the cost of coal was from 40 to 45 percent of the total production cost of soda ash and other widely used chemicals.

"Womanless Wedding" to be Presented by Rotary Club

"A Womanless Wedding" is the title of a play which will be presented by the Rotary club, Wednesday, February 1st, in the high school auditorium. The proceeds from the play will be given to the Boy Scouts.

The play will be given entirely by men, dressed as women. The tallest man in town will be the bride, while the shortest man will be the groom.

Preceding the play there will be a minstrel skit, acted by an old black, mammy, a butler, and the little brother and sister of the bride. Following this there will be a mock reception, acted by the members of the club, dressed as

SOLOMON FIRST SAFETY EXPERT

Reed Tells Wyatt Miners Some Real Ancient History

Safety is no new subject because it has been practiced by the ancients 2000 years ago. Noah played safe when he went into the ark but King Solomon, of temple fame, is generally credited with being the first exponent of safety. Whether he figured it out when he stroked his beard in Jerusalem or not it is not known as details are not given.

However, Joseph W. Reed, director of the safety department of the Consolidation Coal company, has left the pages of the "Songs of Solomon" in the Bible and last night he told his audience at Wyatt, Harrison county, of his observation and interpretation. The biblical passages are "Use sound wisdom and discretion then shalt thou walk safely and thy foot shall not stumble." "Build ye a parapet over the roof of your house lest a man fall therefrom and his blood be on your head."

In the first quotation Mr. Reed interprets the passage to teach the lesson of being careful or "safety first" in other words while in the second instance the verse teaches responsibility for an injury to your

(Continued on page two)

Dr. Weber, Known Here, Resigns

Rev. Dr. Charles J. Smith, president of Roanoke College, Salem, Va., has resigned that position to succeed Rev. Dr. Henry H. Weber, of York Pa., who is well known to Fairmont Lutherans, as secretary of the board of home missions and church extension of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Dr. Weber retired after thirty-three years of service. Rev. J. E. Whitteker, D. D., Chicago, president of the board, presided. Dr. Smith was formerly pastor of Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pa., and New York City.

Dr. Weber is especially known to the original members of Grace Church here because of affairs of the mission board which continues its support of the local church.

COUNTY FAIR At Fairmont High School Tonight

Featuring "The Darktown Minstrels" and A Gay Mid-Way
Lots of Fun for Everyone
Don't Miss It

JENKIN'S AND DRUMMOND'S Barber Shop NOW OPEN 5 Chairs 305 MERCHANT ST.

HUTTON CASE IS IN COURT TODAY

Man Charged With Criminally Assaulting His 12 Year Old Niece

A ripple of surprise spread over the courtroom today when twenty residents of Marion county stood before the bar in criminal court and in reply to a question by Judge E. M. Showalter as to whether any of them had any convictions or suspensions against criminal punishment, they answered no.

It is doubtful if this has ever happened in the history of the criminal court of Marion county before when the first panel of twenty men selected to try a case where the verdict might mean the death by hanging of the prisoner before the bar that only a single man in the panel did not object to serving on the jury.

Several reasons are put forth for this apparent change in the minds of men, one is that during the trials and tribulations of the war, the make up of many men was changed and another reason advanced is that due to the terrible crime wave that has been sweeping over the country men summoned for jury duty realize that only the sternest measures that can be used by the law will put a stop to this wave of crime.

The case in which the men were called for jury service is that of the State versus Charles Hutton, charged with a felony. Hutton is accused in an indictment of having committed criminal assault upon Elizabeth Hutton, his 12 year old niece, and as a result on the fourth day of last September she became the mother of a child.

According to the declaration of Prosecuting Attorney Frank R.

(Continued on page two)

Joe Cantor Is Found Guilty

Joe Cantor, formerly a local business man, was found guilty of embezzling \$900 from Tom March, a resident of Barrackville. Attorneys Musgrave and Brandon who represented the defendant, entered a motion to set aside the verdict and the motion will be argued in court on Monday morning.

Bond for Cantor's appearance in court on Monday morning when the motion will be argued was asked by the prosecution and Judge Showalter fixed the bond at \$5,000. After some little delay the bond was arranged and Cantor was released until Monday morning.

John W. Mason, assistant prosecuting attorney, represented the state in the case.

FRUIT DAMAGED LOS ANGELES, Jan. 20.—

With a cold wave bearing minimum temperatures reported officially as varying between 20 and 31 degrees prevalent throughout southern California last night and early today, Colonel H. B. Hersey, director of the United States station picture actress, came today. The hall of justice, where the trial is being held, was ordered heated more adequately following yesterday's cold snap which forced jurors into their overcoats. Attorneys became heated yesterday, however, as a result of an argument over testimony of Miss Zay Provost, show girl, a prosecution witness.

Good Opportunity For Man With Small Capital I am looking for a partner in my business. The Sanitary Bakery at Farmington. I want a man who will drive truck, and invest small sum of money. I have the shop equipped with all necessary machinery and plenty of customers. See me at the bakery or write. J. D. BRONDER A. V. Lynch Bldg. Farmington, W. Va.

BETTER COAL MINING SURE SAYS BATLEY

Conservation and By-Product Plants at Mines in Future

INTERESTING TALK

Tells of Evolution of Mining—Mr. McCullough's Address

Greater efficiency will be the keynote of the coal industry of the morrow declared Charles H. Batley, Fairmont, international representative of the United Mine Workers of America, in addressing the largest meeting ever held in the history of the Clarkburg District Mining Institute in the Harrison county court house at Clarkburg on Thursday night. Three hundred men were present. From the impractical knowledge being applied in the coal industry of today in which the destruction of property and waste generally is prevalent will come the passage of laws and especially in this state prohibiting mines' properties to be worked except by those who have practical knowledge of the subject. This will be brought about by the waste of coal, destruction of property by explosions, loss of life and limbs, and the injury to the miners to become intelligent in their work so that they can intelligently build this protection for mining industry in the state and nation.

Mining Evolution.

The foregoing statements were backed up by the evolution of the coal mining industry of the past. Fifty three years ago when he was in the mines and when Engstrom and enjoyed the chief coal production of the world and where mining was at the most advanced scientifically in those days there was no such thing as a mining machine. When he went to the Pittsburgh district in 1879 there were no mining machines along the Monongahela river, although he had the good fortune to see a mining machine in England before

(Continued on page twelve)

Thorn Case Up In Court Today

The \$10,000 breach of promise suit of Miss Lorine Thorn of Worthington versus Paul Terlek, also of Worthington is being heard by Judge W. S. Meredith and a Circuit Court jury today. Miss Thorn alleges that Terlek promised to marry her and that after having her to wait a number of years for him, threw her over and married another girl. The case will probably not reach the jury until some time tomorrow.

Jurors hearing the evidence in the case are: W. L. Hardesty, Marvin Morris, Charles L. Able, C. E. Everson, C. A. Satterfield, M. A. C. Barrackman, J. W. Owen, Sol P. Glover, Walter Hibbs, and A. C. Kelley.

Attorneys Harry Shaw and L. C. Musgrave are representing the plaintiff while Attorneys Rose, Barnes and M. M. Neely are representing the defendant.

Court Room Warm; Lawyers Cool Off

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 20.—The court room had warmed up and attorneys cooled off perceptibly when opening hour in the trial of Roscoe C. Arbutnot on a charge of manslaughter growing out of the death of Miss Virginia Rappe, a movie star, was reached today.

The hall of justice, where the trial is being held, was ordered heated more adequately following yesterday's cold snap which forced jurors into their overcoats. Attorneys became heated yesterday, however, as a result of an argument over testimony of Miss Zay Provost, show girl, a prosecution witness.

WANT 20 PERCENT SHAMOKIN, Pa., Jan. 20.—

The scale committee of the Anthracite mine workers today recommended to the convention in session here that it ask a twenty per cent increase in wages and that mining be suspended on March 31 if a new wage contract has not been negotiated with the operators by that time. The convention immediately entered upon a discussion of the demands.



The pope is in a serious condition today, suffering from an attack of pneumonia, which, it is feared, will prove fatal.

SHANTUNG CASE NOW EXPLAINED

Versailles Treaty Binds Seven of the Powers to Support Japan

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The Shantung question must and probably will be settled between China and Japan and cannot be taken up by the arms conference, Senator Underwood of Alabama, one of the American delegates, declared in the senate today during a session of the conference.

The conference, Senator Underwood said, was unable to take up the Shantung question because seven of the conference powers were committed by the treaty of Versailles to support Japan's position. The senator's statement was made in connection with introduction by Senator Walsh, Democrat, Montana, of a resolution calling on the president for his views on the question. Senator Lodge, Independent, Senator Underwood's statement.

Senator Underwood went on to say that in the negotiations between China and Japan, an agreement appeared near.

"A settlement is now approaching very close to the end and from information which I have," said Senator Underwood, "I am hopeful that a very early date a settlement will be arrived at."

TO USE SHOTGUNS SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 20.—

Sawed-off shot guns, will be given to all prohibition agents in California under orders published today by Tom Brown, assistant prohibition director, acting for E. Forrest Mitchell, prohibition director now in Los Angeles.

The action was taken Brown explained, as a protective measure, based on information that armed bandits had attempted to rob prohibition agents of \$15,000 worth of liquor in Dublin Canyon, Alameda county, Wednesday.

MINERS WANTED CHARLESTON, Jan. 20.—

A request for 125 miners to work under the 1917 wage scale in the mines of the Lunda Coal Company was received by Governor Morgan today from W. A. Butler, employment supervisor of the company. His letter to the Governor suggested that relief committees working in the sections of the state where unemployment had become a serious factor could find men for these positions as a means of relieving the situation.

The letter stated that the company was unable to secure enough men to operate its properties efficiently and said "It seems it will be necessary for us to either close our mines or secure sufficient men to lower our cost to the minimum-by quantity production."

The average menu for American soldiers is as follows: Breakfast coffee with milk, hot cakes or cereal, eggs, bread and butter; dinner: coffee or tea, steak or other meat, two vegetables, dessert; supper: coffee or tea, one meat, two vegetables, dessert.

HEAD OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SERIOUS CONDITION TODAY

Reports Late Today Indicate That Only Miracle Can Save Him From Death

(By the Associated Press)
ROME, Jan. 20 (6:45 P. M.).—Pope Benedict's condition was grave this evening but the pneumonia had not spread further, it was said.

The Pontiff's temperature was given at this hour as 101, pulse 104, respiration 60.

ROME, Jan. 20 (6 P. M.).—The Pope at this hour is still showing resistance against the progress of his malady.

ROME, Jan. 20.—The physicians gave their patient another examination shortly after noon, after which Dr. Marchafava said the Pope's condition was very grave but not desperate. He thought the turning point would occur tonight.

ROME, Jan. 20.—Pope Benedict's life hangs in the balance today and fears were expressed at the Vatican at noon that his holiness was in a dying condition.

During the early hours of this morning, towards 4 a. m., there was a sudden change for the worse and the bronchial affection from which his holiness had been suffering for several days spread to his lungs.

The pontiff asked for and received the last sacrament, insisting upon this "If only to give a good example," he said, despite attempts by his attendants to dissuade him.

The Pope's physicians were in conference at the Vatican at an early hour and the morning bulletin issued afterwards expressed a serious condition.

Dr. Battistini, however, stated that the condition of the Pope was not hopeless.

At 11 o'clock, however, the condition became worse and oxygen was administered. Meanwhile prayers were being said in all the churches and Catholic institutions of Rome on behalf of His Holiness and great crowds began to assemble in St. Peter's.

Today's sudden change for the worse in the pontiff's condition seemed to have come as a great surprise, even to those who had been serving him most closely. Last evening he received some strengthening injections, and the doctors then stated they were satisfied with his condition.

This morning an extension of inflammation had extended to the lungs. One of the most distressing conditions that developed early today seemed to be passing away after ten o'clock this morning, as the Pontiff was then able to expectorate slightly. This aroused more hope among the watchers, but towards 11 o'clock he became worse again and oxygen then was administered.

Shortly after 11 o'clock Monsignor Zampini, the sacristan of the papal palace, went to the chapel and took the sacrament for the Pope. The cortege was preceded by four of the papal guards, carrying lighted candles.

Ugly charges and counter charges were made by both attorneys during the trial. Tom Bogness who owns a Cadillac and was suggested as an interested witness was so erratic in his statements to the jury that his lunacy was questioned and the advisability of appointing a commission to investigate his mental state. If indeed he had any, was freely discussed by the court. A. C. Kinkadee also drew the ire of the court when he was adjudged to be in contempt having attempted to introduce advertising before the court in his testimony. Had it not been that his standing both in the church and the Kiwanis club was the very best he would probably have been summarily dealt with.

Tom Henderson, Dr. Keener, Thomas Bartlett, Carl Springer, A. M. Davidson and E. C. Curry were jurors who heard the case, while Minor Dunham was sheriff and Mr. Fitzhugh clerk. After court adjourned, ice cream and cake were served and a generally enjoyable social time had.

The average menu for American soldiers is as follows: Breakfast coffee with milk, hot cakes or cereal, eggs, bread and butter; dinner: coffee or tea, steak or other meat, two vegetables, dessert; supper: coffee or tea, one meat, two vegetables, dessert.

Short Session of Anthracite Men

SHAMOKIN, Pa., Jan. 20.—The tri district anthracite wage convention held a short session early today, considering routine internal matters of the districts while waiting for the sub-scale committee to complete its report.

The full scale committee met at noon to approve the wage and other demands to be recommended for submission to the coal companies. The report will be presented to the afternoon session, it was expected, and debate might continue until tonight.

PRELIMINARY TRIAL

Fred Vendetta, a local taxi driver, charged with having in his possession six stolen automobiles, will be given a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner J. P. Kirby at 8 o'clock tonight.

Vendetta was arrested last evening by Federal officers and was taken before Commissioner Kirby who held him under bond of \$15,000 for his appearance for the preliminary hearing tonight. He was unable to furnish the bond and was confined in the Marion county jail.

10 DAY SENTENCE

Julian Mayo, of Farmington, is serving a ten day sentence in the county jail for removing gas pipe and lumber from a house in which he had been living to another house when he moved. Mayo was sentenced by Magistrate J. T. Davies, of Farmington last evening and was brought to this city and locked up in the county jail.